

English 203: Writing about Literature
Prerequisite: ENGL 111 & 112
Fall 2009 (MWF 9:00-9:50)

Professor: Dr. Xiongya Gao

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Office Hours: MWF 10:00-12:00, TTH 10:00-11:00, or by appointment

COURSE OVERVIEW AND POLICY

Required Text:

The Norton Introduction to Literature. Shorter 9th Edition
Handbook used in English 112

Course Description:

This course is designed to enable the students to appreciate literature and write responsive, reflective, and analytical essays about it. Students will be introduced to various elements of fiction. Poetry, and drama, such as characterization, setting, point of view, symbolism, imager, structure, and tone. We will focus on reading, discussing, and writing about selected works of literature; explore different critical approaches; and examine structural patterns to learn the basics of good writing: focus, structure, organization, and development based on literary analysis.

Course Objectives and Outcomes:

This course will help students

1. to develop an understanding and appreciation of literature
2. to familiarize with major themes and techniques in various genres
3. to improve the ability to respond to literature both orally and in writing
4. to synthesize their ideas and those of various authors and critics in composing organized, well supported essays

Course Requirements:

You are responsible for completing each week's reading **before** we discuss it in class and preparing for frequent quizzes. Each student will present an oral report about 20 minutes long on the assigned reading. You will also write three short, analytical essays (300-500 words, about 2-3 pages). All essays will require the incorporation of citation and documentation in the MLA format. There will be a midterm and a final examination covering the entire course. Students have to meet all the requirements to pass the course.

Late Work and Make-up Policy:

To be fair for everyone, late papers will **NOT** be accepted. Only those students who have valid excuses are allowed to make up for missed assignments and examinations.

Attendance:

Since the examinations depend heavily upon class discussions, your attendance is extremely important. If you have an emergency, call me to explain your absence and

make sure that you find out what you missed. More than three absences for any reason will adversely affect your grade.

Conferences:

There will be two conferences in my office (see syllabus) in which I will meet students individually to discuss any aspect of the course. Besides, I am available during my office hours or by appointment.

Plagiarism:

According to the University Academic Integrity Policy, any form of plagiarism or cheating on exams and papers or complicity in such acts is punishable by the maximum penalty of expulsion from the university. Any work written for this class containing plagiarism will receive F for the entire course.

Grading:

The number-letter grading scale:

A: 94-100	A-: 90-93	F: below 60
B+: 87-89	B: 84-86	B-: 80-83
C+: 78-79	C: 74-77	C-: 70-73
D+: 67-69	D: 64-66	D-: 60-63

Your final grade will be broken down as follows:

Attendance / Reading Quizzes	10%
Oral Presentation	10%
Essays:	40%
Midterm Exam:	20%
Final Exam:	<u>20%</u>
	100%

NOTE:

This course is Blackboard enhanced. Students are encouraged to log on the Blackboard to check class materials, grades, and announcements. Both the midterm and the final examinations will be conducted on the Blackboard, so please make sure you have your username and password.

All assignments must be completed to pass this course. The grade of "I" (Incomplete) will be given only when the student completes most of the required work satisfactorily but for legitimate reasons is unable to complete one or two essential items. No curves, special assignments, or exceptions will be made.

I am committed to help you in this class. However, it is your responsibility to ensure that you have completed all the assigned work. I will not issue repeated reminders concerning missing essays, incomplete performance records, and the like.